

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02
ICA-20 TRSE-00 OES-07 NSF-02 NAS-01 OIC-02 DOE-15
SOE-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-14 /138 W
-----046946 171653Z /42

R 171544Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
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ALL NATO CAPITALS

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BRUSSELS ALSO USEEC; PARIS ALSO USOECD

DEPT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. PRESS

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: ON APRIL 11-13, AT THE PALAIS D'EGMONT, BRUSSELS,
THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH A COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY HIGH-LEVEL
DELEGATIONS FROM ALLIED CAPITALS. DR. FRANK PRESS, THE
PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR AND HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION,
READ A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER (ICA WIRELESS FILE
NO. 70 OF APRIL 11, ITEM EUR 14). CONFERENCE SPEAKERS
REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAST 20 YEARS AND
DISCUSSED CHALLENGES AHEAD. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT CARTER, IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE,
MADE POINT THAT THE "ENDEAVORS BY THE NATO COMMUNITY TO
EXTEND THE FRONTIERS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HAVE BEEN
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A COHESIVE FORCE IN BINDING THE ALLIANCE TOGETHER". IN HIS
REFLECTIONS, PROFESSOR ISIDOR RABI, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE, NOTED THAT WITH LIMITED RESOURCES
THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM HAD ACHIEVED SOMETHING UNIQUE
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS--THE CREATION OF A NEW TYPE OF
UNIVERSITY TO WHICH CAME SOME OF THE BEST MINDS IN THE
ALLIANCE. OVER THE YEARS, IT HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY

TO FOSTERING AN ATLANTIC SOCIETY.

2. AGENDA: FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF DAYS, CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED STATE OF ALLIED SCIENCE BY FOCUSING ON 15 COMMISSIONED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND CRITIQUES ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:

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A. SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAST 20 YEARS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

B. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

-- SPECIAL FOCUS ON ENERGY

C. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

-- LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

-- POPULATION AND EDUCATION

-- STANDARD OF LIVING, EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS

D. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

-- IMPACT OF INFORMATION-HANDLING TECHNOLOGIES ON SOCIETY

-- DEFENSE PLANNING AND WESTERN SECURITY

-- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES

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E. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ALLIANCE--THE FUTURE

-- SOCIO-POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CONCERNS OF WESTERN WORLD

-- IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMS

(COMMENT: CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PREPARED CRITIQUES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TWO VOLUMES BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.)

3. THEMES: SEVERAL THEMES WERE REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS:

-- THE CONCEPT OF WESTERN SECURITY MUST BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL CONCERNS

-- NORTH/SOUTH PROBLEMS WILL INCREASINGLY OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION AND EFFORTS

-- WESTERN DEMOCRACIES MUST TACKLE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS BY ADEQUATE PLANNING

-- INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES ARE NEEDED TO SOLVE THE

COMPLEX PROBLEMS CONFRONTING US

-- SCIENTISTS MUST SHARPEN THEIR ABILITY TO SPEAK CLEARLY
TO THE PUBLIC AND TO MAKE THEIR EXPERTISE MORE READILY
AVAILABLE TO DECISION-MAKERS

-- WE MUST MAKE TRANSITION FROM CONSUMING TO CONSERVING
SOCIETY BY MAKING THE NECESSARY POLITICAL DECISIONS AND
EMPLOYING TECHNOLOGY OF CONSERVATION.

-- RECOGNITION THAT INFORMATION IS A BASIC RESOURCE AND
THAT INFORMATION-HANDLING TECHNOLOGIES ARE TRANSFORMING

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OUR SOCIETIES.

4. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS: THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONCRETE
PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE NATO SCIENCE ACTIVITIES. SIR SAM
EDWARDS (UK) NOTED THAT NATO MIGHT EXPAND THE SCOPE OF ITS
AIR-SEA INTERACTION PANEL TO INCLUDE STUDYING HOW POLAR
ICE INTERACTS WITH THE OTHER ELEMENTS. IN SUPPORT, HOLST
(NORWAY) SAID THAT A POLAR RESEARCH PROGRAM WAS OF PARTI-
CULAR IMPORTANCE. PESTEL (FRG) SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE
MIGHT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP "QUALITY OF LIFE INDICA-
TORS" WHICH WOULD BE OF USE TO DECISION-MAKERS GRAPPLING
WITH SOCIAL/ECONOMIC/POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IN HIS OPINION,
THE COMMITTEE MIGHT ALSO COMMISSION A STUDY TO SEE HOW

THE WEST COULD BEST MANAGE THE NECESSARY FUTURE TRANSITION TO NEW ENERGY SYSTEMS. DR. PRESS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE GIVE ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY. ALSO, THE COMMITTEE MIGHT CONSIDER SPONSORING A SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS WHAT TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE LIKE IN TEN YEARS AND THE IMPACT OF INNOVATION ON OUR SOCIETIES. AT THE CONCLUSION
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OF SUCH A SYMPOSIUM, POLICY-MAKERS COULD BE INVITED FOR BRIEFINGS.

5. COMMITTEE BUDGET: IN HIS PRESENTATION, SIR SAM EDWARDS NOTED THAT OVER THE YEARS THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HAD BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION AND WAS UNABLE TO SUPPORT ITS PROGRAM ADEQUATELY. THE COMMITTEE WAS NOW FACED WITH THE CHOICE OF SEEKING INCREASED FUNDING OR CUTTING BACK SOME OF ITS PROGRAMS. PESTEL ADDED THAT IF INITIATIVES ARE TO BE UNDERTAKEN NEW FUNDS WILL BE NEEDED. FRANK JUDD, UK MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AGREED ABOUT THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCES, AND AMBASSADOR PAULS(FRG) ADDED THAT THIS IS THE TIME TO LOOK AT THE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS ON THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE. IN EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM, DR. PRESS COMMENTED THAT A RECENT U.S. STUDY HAD LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BASIC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY AND ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED.

6. COMMENT: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE WAS ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALLIANCE LEADERS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE AND IN ELICITING SUPPORT FOR ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES. AS WAS HOPED, INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE PAPERS SPARKED A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION AND AT TIMES SHARP DISAGREEMENT. IN THE COMING MONTHS THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE WILL, WITH THE HELP OF EXPERTS, ATTEMPT TO ASSESS THE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING THE CONFERENCE AND TO DEVELOP, AS NECESSARY, NEW ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT 20 YEARS. GLITMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, COMMITTEES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0351
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780447/aaaaboil.tel
Line Count: 212
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e4188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2940037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE SUMMARY: ON APRIL 11-13, AT THE PALAIS D'EGMONT, B
TAGS: TGEN, NATO
To: STATE NATO POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e4188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014